

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on December 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on Signing the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008**

*December 26, 2007*

Today, I signed into law H.R. 2764, legislation that will fund the Federal Government within the reasonable and responsible spending levels I proposed—without raising taxes and without the most objectionable policy changes considered by the Congress. This law provides a down payment for the resources our troops need, without arbitrary timelines for withdrawal. The Congress should quickly take action next year to provide the remainder of the funding needed by our troops.

I am disappointed in the way the Congress compiled this legislation, including abandoning the goal I set early this year to reduce the number and cost of earmarks by half. Instead, the Congress dropped into the bill nearly 9,800 earmarks that total more than \$10 billion. These projects are not funded through a merit-based process and provide a vehicle for wasteful Government spending.

There is still more to be done to rein in Government spending. In February I will submit my budget proposal for fiscal year 2009, which will once again restrain spending, keep taxes low, and continue us on a path towards a balanced budget. I look forward to working with the Congress in the coming year to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Finally, this legislation contains certain provisions similar to those found in prior appropriations bills passed by the Congress that might be construed to be inconsistent with my Constitutional responsibilities. To avoid such potential infirmities, the executive branch will interpret and construe such pro-

visions in the same manner as I have previously stated in regard to similar provisions.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
December 26, 2007.

### **Remarks on the Death of Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan in Crawford, Texas**

*December 27, 2007*

Laura and I extend our deepest condolences to the family of Benazir Bhutto, to her friends, and to her supporters. We send our condolences to the families of the others who were killed in today's violence. And we send our condolences to all the people of Pakistan on this tragic occasion.

The United States strongly condemns this cowardly act by murderous extremists who are trying to undermine Pakistan's democracy. Those who committed this crime must be brought to justice. Mrs. Bhutto served her nation twice as Prime Minister, and she knew that her return to Pakistan earlier this year put her life at risk. Yet she refused to allow assassins to dictate the course of her country.

We stand with the people of Pakistan in their struggle against the forces of terror and extremism. We urge them to honor Benazir Bhutto's memory by continuing with the democratic process for which she so bravely gave her life.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. at the Bush Ranch.

### **Proclamation—To Adjust the Rules of Origin Under the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement and the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement**

*December 27, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

1. Section 1206(a) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (the "1988 Act") (19 U.S.C. 3006(a)) authorizes the

President to proclaim modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) based on the recommendations of the U.S. International Trade Commission (the “Commission”) under section 1205 of the 1988 Act (19 U.S.C. 3005), if he determines that the modifications are in conformity with United States obligations under the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (the “Convention”) and do not run counter to the national economic interest of the United States. In 2006, the Commission recommended modifications to the HTS pursuant to section 1205 of the 1988 Act to conform the HTS to amendments made to the Convention. In Presidential Proclamation 8097 of December 29, 2006, I modified the HTS pursuant to section 1206 of the 1988 Act to conform the HTS to the amendments to the Convention.

2. Presidential Proclamation 7746 of December 30, 2003, implemented the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (USCFTA) with respect to the United States and, pursuant to section 201 of the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the “USCFTA Act”) (19 U.S.C. 3805 note), the staged reductions in rates of duty that I determined to be necessary or appropriate to carry out or apply articles 3.3 (including the schedule of United States duty reductions with respect to originating goods set forth in Annex 3.3 to the USCFTA), 3.7, 3.9, and 3.20(8), (9), (10), and (11) of the USCFTA.

3. In order to ensure the continuation of the staged reductions in rates of duty for originating goods from Chile in categories that were modified to conform to the Convention, I proclaimed in Presidential Proclamation 8097 modifications to the HTS that I determined were necessary or appropriate to carry out the duty reductions proclaimed in Proclamation 7746.

4. Chile is a party to the Convention. Because the substance of changes to the Convention are reflected in slightly differing form in the national tariff schedules of the parties to the USCFTA, the rules of origin set out in Annex 4.1 of that Agreement must be changed to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the

USCFTA to originating goods will continue to be provided under the tariff categories that were modified in Proclamation 8097. The USCFTA parties have agreed to make these changes.

5. Section 202 of the USCFTA provides certain rules for determining whether a good is an originating good for the purposes of implementing tariff treatment under the USCFTA. Section 202(o) of the USCFTA Act authorizes the President to proclaim the rules of origin set out in the USCFTA and any subordinate tariff categories necessary to carry out the USCFTA, subject to the exceptions stated in section 202(o)(2)(A).

6. I have determined that the modifications to the HTS proclaimed pursuant to section 202 of the USCFTA Act and section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act are necessary or appropriate to ensure the continuation of tariff and certain other treatment accorded originating goods under tariff categories modified in Proclamation 8097 and to carry out the duty reductions proclaimed in Proclamation 7746.

7. Presidential Proclamation 7747 of December 30, 2003, implemented the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) with respect to the United States and, pursuant to section 201 of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the “USSFTA Act”) (19 U.S.C. 3805 note), the staged reductions in rates of duty that I determined necessary or appropriate to carry out or apply articles 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.12 of the USSFTA and the schedule of reductions with respect to the United States set forth in Annex 2B of the USSFTA.

8. In order to ensure the continuation of the staged reductions in rates of duty for originating goods from Singapore in categories that were modified to conform to the Convention, in Presidential Proclamation 8097, I proclaimed modifications to the HTS that I determined were necessary or appropriate to carry out the duty reductions proclaimed in Proclamation 7747.

9. Singapore is a party to the Convention. Because the substance of the changes to the Convention are reflected in slightly differing form in the national tariff schedules of the parties to the USSFTA, the provisions set out

in Annexes 3A and 3B of that Agreement must be changed to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded under the USSFTA to originating goods will continue to be provided under the tariff categories that were modified in Presidential Proclamation 8097. The USSFTA parties have agreed to make these changes.

10. Section 202 of the USSFTA Act provides certain rules for determining whether a good is an originating good for the purposes of implementing tariff treatment under the USSFTA. Section 202(o) of the USSFTA Act authorizes the President to proclaim the rules of origin set out in the USSFTA and any subordinate tariff categories necessary to carry out the USSFTA, subject to certain exceptions set out in section 202(o)(2)(A).

11. I have determined that the modifications to the HTS proclaimed pursuant to section 202 of the USSFTA Act are necessary or appropriate to ensure that the tariff and certain other treatment accorded originating goods under tariff categories modified in Proclamation 8097 and to carry out the duty reductions proclaimed in Proclamation 7747.

12. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the provisions of that Act, and of other Acts, affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction. Section 1206(c) of the 1988 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3006(c)), provides that any modifications proclaimed by the President under section 1206(a) of that Act may not take effect before the thirtieth day after the date on which the text of the proclamation is published in the *Federal Register*.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 1206(a) of the 1988 Act, section 202 of the USSFTA Act, section 202 of the USCFTA Act, and section 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the modifications to the rules of origin under the

USCFTA, general note 26 to the HTS is modified as provided in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to reflect in the HTS the modifications to the rules of origin under the USSFTA, general note 25 to the HTS is modified as provided in Annex II to this proclamation.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) The modifications and technical rectifications to the HTS set forth in Annexes I and II to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the later of (i) February 1, 2008, or (ii) the thirtieth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this proclamation.

## **Memorandum on Provision of Aviation Insurance Coverage for Commercial Air Carrier Service in Domestic and International Operations**

*December 27, 2007*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation*

*Subject:* Provision of Aviation Insurance Coverage for Commercial Air Carrier Service in Domestic and International Operations

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States including 49 U.S.C. 44302, *et seq.*, I hereby: